

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action of Examiner Kyung H. Shin of 10 Nov 2003.

Claims 1-15 are in the case, none as yet allowed.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Salas et al (Salas, 6,233,600).

Applicants invention provides a double linked list for linking rooms together in collaboration space, with access control list control on rooms and access control list control on forward pointers, or child pointers, to child rooms. Applicants have amended all claims to recite this specific structure.

This structure is illustrated in Figures 10 and 11 of

applicants' specification, which are described as follows:

Referring to Figure 10, QuickPlace rooms 201-204 and 210 are connected by forward and backward pointers 205-209 and 211, and these enable the security of each room to be independently managed. Each room has its own security; that is, the identity of each user allowed to enter the room and that users security level: the three levels being reader, author, manager. This is held in an access control list which is a part of each room. While an individual, say Steve, has reader access (R) to the library 204, he can have author (A) access to a subroom 211. This enables a subroom 211 to have increased/ maintained, or decreased access authority for a particular individual with respect to its parent room 204. Only individuals with access to a parent 204 can access a subroom 210, but that subroom 210 can have changed access for the subroom 210 for these individuals. Previously, security could not be increased in subrooms 210 with respect to a parent room 204.

A database access control list (ACL) specifies who can or cannot access the database. For users who can

access a database, access levels and roles determine the specific actions they can perform -- for example, creating or deleting documents. Document access fields (Readers and Authors fields), in conjunction with the database ACL, control who can read or modify specific documents. Thus, to limit access to specific documents created from a form, a readers field is included. A readers field explicitly lists the users who can read documents created from the form. If a form has an access list, names from the readers field are added to the form access list. Otherwise, the readers field controls access to documents created from the form. Entries in a readers field cannot give a user more access than what is specified in the database access control list (ACL); they can only further restrict access. An authors field works in conjunction with author access in the database ACL. Listing users in an authors field expands access rights by allowing listed users to edit documents they create. Entries in an authors field cannot override the database access control list; they can only refine it. Authors fields affect only users who have author access to the database.

Referring to Figure 11, forward pointers 205, 209 are secure. Security, in this context provides that forward pointer 205 to project A 203 carries the same security as that of project A 203, and anyone viewing main room 201 who is not entitled to access project A 203 will not see room 203 listed in parent room. QuickPlace does not show a user things or objects to which the user does not have access. In past, such objects were shown, but were greyed out or otherwise managed so that user access was inhibited. Forward pointers, therefore, include room name field 212, address to database name field 213, and readers field 214, which includes a table of user identifiers 215 for each user permitted to access the room, with corresponding access authority 216 for each such user, which may be manager, author, or reader. [Applicants' specification, pages 48-50.]

Salas does not teach this structure of a double linked list for linking rooms together in a place with ACL security on rooms and ACL security on forward pointers in the double linked list. Applicants have amended the claims of the case to more clearly recite "the features on which applicant relies", as implicitly suggested by the Examiner (Office

Action, page 2, item 3.)

The Examiner refers to Salas, column 6, lines 39-55 for a teaching of forward and reverse pointers for enabling security of each room to be independently managed. Applicants respectfully traverse this characterization of Salas.

Salas refers to a hyperlink at column 6, line 43. A hyperlink is a type of pointer. That is, a hyperlink is a portion of text on a web page that is linked to another web page, either on the same site or in another Web site. A hyperlink, as described by Salas, is how to get into a room, but is not a forward pointer in a double linked list structure with ACL security on the forward pointers in addition to ACL security on the child room.

As will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, the words "forward" and "backwards" as used in applicants' claims denote a data structure known as a double linked list, which is "[A] variant of a linked list in which each item has a link to the previous item as well as the next." (See, http://www.nist.gov/dads/HTML/doublyLinkedList.html).

That Salas does not teach a double linked list with ACL security on forward pointers in addition to ACL security on the rooms is apparent from examination of Salas Figure 1, which does not show forward and reverse pointers between rooms. In Salas, there is no teaching of forward and reverse pointers linking rooms with ACL security on those forward pointers, as distinguished from and in addition to security on the rooms.

Applicants' claims variously call for forward and reverse pointers between parent and children, with access control (readers/authors lists) included in the structure of the forward pointers.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-15.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of

the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

J. Estrada, et al.

By



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